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THE FEED GRAIN PROGRAM 1969

The 1969 voluntary feed grain program is designed to reduce feed supplies in order to strengthen prices.

The national feed grain acreage diversion goal of the 1969 program is 37 million acres -- 4.6 million more acres than were diverted from production last year. A 37 million acre diversion would produce a crop estimated at 3 to 5 million tons less than requirements and result in a decrease in carryover stocks.

The past 2 years have been notable for good crop weather and improved cropping practices both at home and abroad, with resulting worldwide increases in grain production. Needs of importing countries have been less, and exporting countries have had more to offer.

But despite dramatic increases in feed grain yields in the United States, acreage diversion programs in the last 2 years have put a brake on domestic production and have helped keep carryover of feed grain stocks near needed reserve levels.

Operating details of the 1969 feed grain program are nearly identical to those in effect in 1968; the only major exception is that barley is included this year.

Three feed grains -- corn, grain sorghum, and barley -- are in the acreage diversion program for 1969. If your farm has a corn, grain sorghum, or barley base you are eligible to participate.

PROGRAM BENEFITS

Farmers can benefit from participation in several ways depending on individual operations. Principal benefits are (1) price support loans, (2) price support payments, and (3) payments for additional diversion.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service
 PA-904

CURRENT SERIAL RECORDS

January 1969

FEB 26 1969

ARENT SERIAL RECORDS
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Producers may participate in the 1969 program by reducing their total acreage of corn, grain sorghum, and barley by at least 20 percent below their farm's feed grain base. Acreage may be diverted from any one or a combination of these crops - - with the price support payment determined by the crops planted.

DIVERSION PAYMENTS

If the total feed grain base for your farm is 25 acres or less, you may divert either the minimum of 20 percent of your base or as much additional base acreage as you wish and earn diversion payments for all your diversion. The rate of payment for the first 20 percent of the base diverted will be about 44 percent of the rate for additional diversion on your farm. Additional diversion rates are the same as for larger farms.

For larger farms (those with feed grain bases of more than 25 acres) no diversion payments will be made for diverting the minimum 20 percent of the base. The maximum amount of acreage that can be diverted on larger farms is 50 percent of the base or 25 acres, whichever is greater.

The per-acre payment rate for additional diversion will be 45 percent of the total price support (price support payment rate plus county loan rate) times the farm's established yield.

If your farm's total feed grain base is 125 acres or less and you do not wish to plant corn, sorghum, or barley you will have the option of temporarily reducing this base to 25 acres and qualifying under the small farm provisions providing the 25 acres are diverted to a conserving use. Under this option, you agree not to produce corn, grain sorghum, or barley; however, you may still substitute wheat for oats and rye.

PRICE SUPPORT PAYMENTS

Price-support payment rates are the same throughout the Nation: 30 cents per bushel for corn, 29.68 cents per bushel (53 cents per hundredweight) for grain sorghum, and 20 cents per bushel for barley. Per-acre price support payments can be calculated by multiplying the payment rate by the yield established for your farm. Payments will be avail-

able on the acreage considered planted up to 50 percent of the base. To avoid possible loss of payments on crops destroyed by natural causes, check with your county ASCS office before planting such acreage to another crop.

On farms where the crop or its proceeds are divided among different individuals such as in tenant-landlord, sharecropper, or several-owner relationships, these price support payments must be divided among the individuals on the same basis as the individuals share in the crop, unless a different distribution can be justified and is approved by the State ASC Committee.

LOAN RATES

All the corn, grain sorghum, and barley produced on participating farms will be eligible for price-support loans. While loan rates vary among counties because of transportation factors, the national average loan levels are: Corn, \$1.05 per bushel; grain sorghum, \$1.61 per hundredweight; and barley, 83 cents per bushel.

Loans on oats and rye will be available regardless of whether you participate in the feed grain program. National average loan rates on oats are 63 cents per bushel and \$1.02 per bushel on rye.

SUBSTITUTION PROVISIONS

Feed Grains-Wheat - - You may substitute wheat for feed grains (corn, grain sorghum or barley) or feed grains for wheat if you sign up in both programs, do not exceed the permitted acreage of both programs, devote to conserving uses the acreage you divert from feed grains and wheat, maintain your conserving base acreage, and meet other provisions of both programs.

Wheat for Oat-Rye - - If your farm qualifies for an oat-rye base, you may upon request at signup, become eligible to substitute wheat for oats and rye. Check with your county ASCS office for details.

PRODUCERS WITH MORE THAN ONE FARM

You may participate in the feed grain program on one farm without enrolling any other farm. However, your benefits from the participating farm will be reduced or eliminated if anyone grows corn, grain sorghum, or barley in excess of the feed grain base on any other

farm in which you, your wife, or your minor children have an interest. This is true even when the "other" farm is rented in any manner to someone else. Corn, grain sorghum, or barley produced on a farm which has no feed grain base will be considered excess acreage.

HOW TO TAKE PART

1. Sign up with your ASCS county office during the period February 3 through March 21.

2. Review carefully your copy of the signup form - - ASCS-477 - - to make sure it agrees with your intended cropping plans for the coming season. Failure to carry out your agreement fully could result in a substantial reduction or complete loss of payments to be earned.

3. Devote to conserving uses the acreage you sign up to divert from your feed grain base. (The diverted acreage is not to be harvested and may be grazed only during periods authorized for your area.) In addition, you are to maintain your farm's conserving base acreage.

4. Stay within the permitted acreage on the participating farm.

5. Stay within the total feed grain base on any other farm in which you have an interest.

6. Carry out other program provisions, such as weed control on diverted land, etc.

7. Certify compliance with the program and carry out your agreement. When making this certification you will be expected to accurately report acreage devoted to each program crop as well as your diverted acreage and be ready to identify the respective fields upon request. An error in this reporting may result in the loss of all or a substantial part of any payments otherwise earned.

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(To help you meet program provisions fully, measurement service is available at a nominal cost upon request.)

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FOR FURTHER DETAILS, INCLUDING APPROVED CONSERVING USES FOR DIVERTED ACRES, CONSULT YOUR ASCS COUNTY OFFICE.